

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, PO

SUBJECT: MALIK ON TIMOR AND RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL

REF: JAKARTA 9762

1. CALL ON FONMIN MALIK JULY 28 PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO ASK ABOUT REPORTS PORTUGAL HAD RECONGNIZED INDONESIAN ANNEXATION OF TIMOR. MALIK SAID THAT ON BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH GEN. MORAIS DA SILVA IN BANGKOK LEADING TO RELEASE OF PORTUGUESE PRISONERS INDONESIANS HAD FELT CONFIDENT PORTUGAL PREPARED TO OFFICIALYY ACKNOWLEDGE INDONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER TIMOR. STATEMENTS MADE BY MORAIS AFTER BANGKOK MEETING TO EFFECT THAT INTERGRATION OF TIMOR WITH INDONESIA WAS A FACT AND THAT GOP WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO WITHDRAWAL OF TIMOR QUESTION FROM UN ALSO SUPPORTED THIS CONCLUSION. HOWEVER, WITH ISSUANCE OF STATEMENT IN LISBON DENYING GOP RECOGNITION, WHOLE QUESTION WAS AGAIN UP IN THE AIR. MALIK ADDED THAT GOI FOREIGN DEPARTMENT HAD NO ROLE IN BANGKOK NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WERE UNDER DIRECTION OF MILITARY INTELLIGNECE CHIEF GEN. BENNY MURDANI.

2. I POINTED OUT THAT NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAD JUST TAKEN OFFICE. WHILE IT MIGHT BE DISPOSED TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION WITH INDONESIA, IT WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO REVERSE GOP
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POLICY ON ISSUE OF SUCH SENSITIVITY SO SOON AFTER ASSUMING POWER.

MALIK SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND GOI WOULD REFRAIN FROM ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS.

3. COMMENT: GOI HASTE TO CLAIM PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION IS PARTLY DUE TO IMMINENCE OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND FEAR THAT ITS TIMOR POLICY WILL BE CRITICIZED THERE. INDONESIAIS FAILED TO APPRECIATE THAT THEIR EFFORTS TO PUT WORDS IN MOUTH OF PORTUGUESE COULD BOOMERANGE BY PROVOKING GOP DENIALS.
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